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Bill Payne to run for Mayor

by Connie Woodruff

The six months of speculation about William "Bill" Payne's political plans ended last week when the candidate for mayor in the May 10th municipal election filed his petitions and made a formal announcement of his intention to challenge incumbent Sharpe James who is seeking a third term.

Payne shunned the hoopla and "glitter and glitz" that made James' prior announced city-wide media event. He announced in Israel Memorial AME Church with fewer than 50 supporters on hand to cheer his remarks.

"I am running because I believe it's Time for a Real Change," Payne said in referring to his campaign slogan.

"We chose an AME church because this denomination had been connected with the education of slaves and free blacks during the mid-1800's."

"We choose not to treat the people of Newark and our future lightly by staging a carnival-like show, with tickets to the movies and free popcorn and soda," the candidate said referring to James' making his announcement in a movie theater.

In emphasizing a difference in "style and substance" between a Payne candidacy and Newark's colorful, energetic two-term mayor, Payne said "The citizens of Newark deserve better than such demeaning and condescending treatment. The problems and challenges ahead are far too serious to be regarded in such a cavalier manner."

Payne said it is time to change from a "let-'em-eat-cake" mentality in Newark to one that will create a "new vision, a new light, to re-introduce improved city services, honesty, dignity and integrity to city hall and to provide courteous and professional service to the citizens for a true renaissance."

If elected Payne said he will create an "open and honest" administration that would establish a Mayor's Office on Ethical Practices and a Mayor's Office on Education Initiatives to aid the sagging school district plus a Task Force on Youth Advocacy.

It is not surprising Payne has promised to make education the key of his candidacy.



He is director of One to One, a state school-centered youth mentoring program and has lobbied hard and hard for public officials to involve themselves in reforming the educational system statewide and particularly in Newark. Payne has previously served on the board of READY, a Newark based program for inner city high achieving students.

What about James' reputed million-dollar campaign fund? Payne said he is not intimidated by the prospect of facing such a formidable war chest, reminding the interviewer about David's triumph over the giant Goliath.

He said a recent poll among registered voters indicate his name recognition is equal to James' and the results indicate many voters agree it's "time for a real change."

Describing the James administration as "stagnant and old hat," Payne said people serious about improving the quality of life in Newark and anxious to have an opportunity to help the city enter the 21st century with purpose taking precedent over public relations want a mayor who is willing to pay with much attention to problems that still confront Newarkers as to efforts to build a national reputation as an elected official.



Members of the 1994-96 Mary Kay Cosmetics Black Women's Advisory Committee: (Front, l-r) Michelle Farmer from Claremont, Del., Caterina Harris from Oakland, Cal., Carolyn Lucas from Dallas, Tx., and Vanessa Upson from Nashville Tenn., (Back, l-r) Genevieve Henry from St. Louis, MO., Barbara Benjamin from Houston, Tx., Joyce Grady from Severn Md., Jo Schuler from Hampton, Va. and Cora Smith from Charlotte N.C.

Board member calls for help in combating violence

NEWARK—In an effort to protect children from gun violence, Newark Education Board member Bessie Walker, is calling for action on a bill pending in the State Assembly, that would put more emphasis in the punishment for those who unlawfully carry firearms in or near schools.

"The safety of our children are our first priority," Walker stated, as she called for passage of Assembly Bill A-1355, which imposes mandatory imprisonment for unlawful possession of a firearm within 1,000 feet of school property. The State Senate is considering legislation (S-183).

Walker called on local representatives to push the bill forward. "We must take every action we can to prevent violent acts against our children. Children must know that they are safe in and near their neighborhood schools."

The Board recently updated its policy on Weapons and Dangerous Instruments (#531.7). The policy prohibits firearms and other dangerous weapons from school and school-sponsored activities. It also directs any employee who becomes aware of a stu-

dent possessing a weapon or dangerous instrument, to immediately report it to the principal and, if possible, confiscate the weapon. The incident should then be reported to the proper law enforcement authorities. Last year, there were 64 incidents that involved possession of a weapon and 12 incidents classified as assaults with weapons.

The district has the right to search a student and his or her belongings if the school has a reasonable suspicion that the student is concealing a weapon.

The district has taken other steps to help eliminate weapons:

- Security guards posted at every school.
- Student, parent, principal contract for eliminating guns and weapons from schools.
- Conflict resolution programs.
- Rapid Response Team, partnership between Newark Police Department and the Newark Board of education to facilitate enforcement of municipal and school laws deterring potential criminal incidents within the school community.

Mayor battle heats up in Irvington



Bost Declares for Mayor Pledges Professional Police Director and Independent Board of Education

Councilwoman Sara B. Bost declared her candidacy for Mayor today at campaign stops in each of the City's four wards pledging that, if elected, she would bring a new era of professionalism to the Irvington municipal government that would include independent citizens selection committee for future Board of Education members, a professional police director, a comprehensive clean streets program and expanded recreation opportunities for Irvington's youth.

Bost pointed to her experience as a former Assistant Vice President for Chemical Bank and promised to bring the same management techniques used by major corporations to the everyday workings of Irvington's municipal government.

"My campaign is based on the belief that we need to manage this town in a professional business-like way," said Bost. "There are clear cut differences between me and the mayor. I will stop the controversies that have plagued this town for the last four years and get every person in our government to start concentrating on making Irvington a better place to live, work and raise a family."

Bost pointed to the Board of Education as showing a clear difference between her and the current Mayor. Pointing to the continued controversies that have plagued the board for the last four years and the current Mayor's role as appointing authority, employees and Chairman of the Board of School Estimates, Bost said that the Mayor's actions showed a real lack of leadership and disregard for the Board's right to act in an independent manner.

"I intend to have an independent school board free from political interference. The first step will be to have a citizens screening committee to make recommendations to the Mayor for future appointments," said Bost.

"We will never improve our schools if we don't get the politicians and the professionals in. As Mayor, I will make sure our board is working to provide quality education."

Professional Police Director Bost pointed to her proposal for a professional police director as another example of the changes that would occur if she were elected.

"A town the size of Irvington needs an experienced police director. Right now we have a high crime rate, a department that is unable to increase in size, and a police director that has never had any previous management experience. It doesn't make sense," said Bost.

"When Mike Steele had the chance to appoint an experienced professional police director, he didn't. He chose instead to appoint a person who had never risen above the rank of patrolman and who had no management experience. It isn't fair to the people of Irvington and isn't fair to the person he appointed. As Mayor, I will make sure that the police department is run by an experienced professional."



Steele Announces Election Bid Touts his record

Irvington Mayor Michael Steele has formally announced his bid to seek re-election on May 10, 1994. Steele submitted the required petitions to qualify as a candidate last week, and also held a "kick-off" campaign on Thursday, February 24, 1994.

According to Mayor Steele, "my team and I have been in the streets for the past three weeks, and the reception is very good. I am running on a record that shows progress in Irvington over these past four years."

In 1990, the two key areas that I promised to work toward improving were: 1.) Stabilization of local taxes; 2.) Better economic development programs; 3.) A safer and cleaner Irvington; 4.) More recreation for all Irvington residents; 5.) A better educational system for our youth. We have made tremendous strides in each of these areas.

My 1994 Municipal budget, which is in the hands of the Town Council, reflects an overall 9 percent increase over the past four years. The municipal tax rate during the previous administration rose some 33 percent. It is my understanding that my municipal rate of 9 percent may be even lower after certain State directives are applied to the 1994 Budget.

More importantly, there have been increases in housing staff, mostly on grants, and an additional 18 police officers to come to the force this year in June. Down Hall is now turning more in a business mode than ever before.

As far as our economic development efforts go, approximately 97 small businesses and retail businesses moved into the Township last year. Our downtown business district is very healthy. Two well-known fast food chains are negotiating contracts to move into Irvington within the next six months. We have an active UDAG Recycling Grant program, whereby small loans have been available to local merchants to renovate or expand their businesses. This program alone has kept numerous businesses in town.

In the area of recreation, we will soon have a grand opening for a \$1.6 million swimming pool and Orange Park renovation project. This is the first swimming pool in Irvington in over 15 years. An outright grant of \$655,000 was obtained through the State Green Acres Program. Parkway Shelterhouse received a \$250,000 grant to renovate the shelterhouse, build a new track, tennis court and wading pool, and a new baseball field. Shelterhouses were erected at Chancellor and Green Terrace playground. In the summer of 1992, the town received its first Summer Food Grant, whereby we fed over 1,100 children both breakfast and lunch. This program was duplicated in the Summer of 1993. This grant equaled about \$200,000 collectively.

As Mayor, I sponsored the Small Fry Basketball League for Irvington, where I served as President. Over 700 young people are enrolled in this program. I have sponsored the Pop Warner Football Program for the last four years. Our High School Basketball Team has been sponsored by the Mike Steele Civic Association in a Summer League in Elizabeth, New Jersey, in 1992 and 1993. There are various summer activities including summer concerts and family festivities. In the future, there will be plans for more playground equipment.

National News at a glance

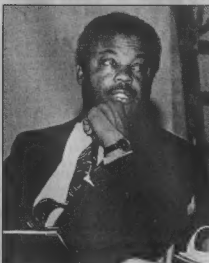
by Robert N. Taylor

Farrakhan sues over report of involvement in murder of Malcolm X: Controversial Nation of Islam leader Louis Farrakhan last week sued the New York Post for \$4.4 billion over a report which alleged that he was involved in the 1965 assassination of black nationalist leader Malcolm X. The Post called the suit "totally without merit" because it was merely quoting Malcolm X's widow Betty Shabazz. The controversy began two weeks ago when Shabazz appeared on New York television station WNBC. She was asked if she thought Farrakhan "had anything to do with the death of your husband?" She responded, "Of course, yes. Nobody kept it a secret. It was a badge of honor." Shabazz was referring in part to an article written by Farrakhan in the December 4, 1964 edition of Muhammad Speaks newspaper. Farrakhan used that article to condemn Malcolm X for brokering with Nation of Islam founder Elijah Muhammad and said of Malcolm X, "The die is set and Malcolm shall not escape. Such a man is worthy of death." On February 21, 1965, Malcolm X was assassinated. Three black Muslims were convicted of the murder. But Farrakhan denies any connection to the assassination pointing out that the investigation into the killing never implicated him.

NEW YORK, NY
Fannie Mae targets minorities with \$1 billion dollar housing program: The Federal National Mortgage Association (known as Fannie Mae) last week announced the launching of a seven-year, one billion dollar program to help minorities and low-income Americans become home owners. Fannie Mae Chairman James A. Johnson said the program aims to create a situation in which "every American who wants to get a mortgage will have their loan approved, or be put on a path that can lead to approval." Fannie Mae does not directly lend money to consumers, but it supplies a lot of the funds to banks.

(Continued on Page 3)

Payne to chair annual legislative weekend



WASHINGTON, DC—Tenth District Congressman Donald Payne has been selected to serve as Chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation's 24th Annual Legislative Weekend, a national event attended by over 25,000 persons. The forty members of the Congressional Black Caucus elected Payne to the position.

Payne, who is visiting South Africa this month as part of an official delegation reviewing conditions there before the historic post-apartheid elections, will personally deliver a letter of invitation to Mr. Mandela to address the conference.

"Nelson Mandela's long struggle to bring freedom to the oppressed people of South Africa was supported and closely watched by millions of Americans," Payne said. "The Foundation's annual gathering will be an ideal forum to hear this remarkable leader's first hand account of the dramatic move towards democracy in his homeland."

Community Calendar

NOW THRU MAY 12

NEWARK—135 prints that represent 60 years of premaking of The Society of American Graphic Artists. Newark Public Library, 5 Washington St., second and third floor galleries. For more information please call 201-733-5643.

FEBRUARY 22 THRU APRIL 5

PLAINFIELD—The Literacy Volunteers of America-Plainfield will host an English language workshop for those who would like to learn. Plainfield Public Library, 8th St. and Park Ave. Tues. nights from 6:00-9:00 P.M. Volunteers needed, you do not need to know a second language to train. For more information call 908-757-1111.

NOW THRU APRIL 21

SOMERVILLE—9th Biennial Exhibition Project. Sixty prints created using the latest techniques of artists throughout the U.S. Gallery hours are 11 a.m. - 5 p.m. Tues - Fri, and 1-4 p.m. on Sat. Admission is free, for more info, call 908-221-2110.

APRIL 5 THRU MAY 10

PLAINFIELD—Tutor Training Workshop for an English as a Second Language Course. Tutors needed for Literacy Volunteers of America program. Located at The Plainfield Public Library, 8th St. at Park Ave. For further information please call 908-757-1111

THURSDAY, APRIL 14-15

SUMMIT—"Bead Dazzled," an exciting hands on workshop using the latest techniques to create beads from glass and other materials. Workshop instructor Kay Bain Weiner, author of several books on glass art, \$50 per person and \$20 for materials. For further info, call 908-273-9121.

THURSDAY, APRIL 7

NEWARK—Newark Public Library, Malcolm X Mobilization Meeting, 6:30 p.m., Guest speaker, New York City Activist Sonny Carson, 5 Washington St., Fourth Floor Auditorium. For further information call 201-643-7711.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 13

NORTH PLAINFIELD—The Ladies Auxiliary of the Plainfield Gearing and Turn-Verein will hold its annual Flea Market from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. in Seenger Hall, 220 Somerset St. Tables may be rented for \$10. For more information please call 908-369-3359.

SATURDAY, APRIL 16

NEWARK—Raz Baraka, author of *In The Tradition*, will give a book signing and lecture from 2-4 p.m. at the Newark Public Library, 5 Washington St., Downtown Newark. All events are free and open to the public, for more information call 201-733-7793.

JERSEY CITY—Latin American Folktales

A Song will be presented by Felix Pina at 5:15 a.m. at the Jean Children's Dept. 472 Jersey Ave., and at 10:45 a.m. at the Pavia Branch, 326 9th St. For more information please call 201-547-4391.

SUNDAY, APRIL 17

PLAINFIELD—The Zora Neale Hurston Literary Society meets at 3 p.m. at the Plainfield Public Library, Park Avenue. This reading "I Been in Sorrows Kitchen" by Susan Straight. For more information call 908-757-1111.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 20

MONTCLAIR—"Be Your Own Person: Assertiveness Training Tips," lecture by Dr. Joan Flocke, director of the Women's Center at Montclair State College. Held at Montclair State College, call for more info, 201-655-4333.

APRIL 21-22

GREENBORO—"55 Alive Mature Driving Course." Given by the AARP to help drivers 50 years of age and older improve their driving skills. 6-10 p.m., at Greenboro Manor, 303 Rock Ave. \$8 fee. A light dinner and refreshments will be served. Deadline for registration is Tues. April 19. For more information call 908-687-1900, ext. 2019.

WILLINGBORO—"Africana Marketplace," hosted by the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority will be held from 11-7 p.m., at JFK Junior H.S., Levitt Parkway & JFK Way. Vendors needed for this event, fax for an application at 608-550-7743. Registration deadline is Apr. 14.

SUNDAY, APRIL 24

EDISON—Midwest Community College will host its annual open house for prospective and admitted students from 1 - 4 p.m. in the Administration Building. For more info call 908-906-2566.

MONDAY, APRIL 25

UNION—Union County College 2nd Annual Dick Luster Golf Tournament, 12:30 p.m. Shogun Glen Suburban Golf Club, Morris Ave. Call 908-709-7039.

Open Heart Organization of NJ accepting scholarship applications

NEWARK—The Open Heart Organization of New Jersey, is accepting applications for five \$250 scholarships to be awarded in May. The scholarships are open to all college students who are furthering their medical education and receiving passing grades. The money may be used for books, enrollment fees, or other school expenses.

For information about the scholarships or to receive an application, contact George Bauer, scholarship chair, at 3-D Brookdale Gardens, Bloomfield 07003, or call at 201-429-8554.

UMDNJ Specialist Named Chairman of National TB Advisory Council

NEWARK—Dr. Reynard J. McDonald, a tuberculosis specialist at UMDNJ New Jersey Medical School, has been appointed chairman of the Advisory Council for the Elimination of Tuberculosis of the national Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Based in Atlanta, Ga., the CDC is the nation's major agency for tracking and preventing disease.



Dr. McDonald, associate professor of clinical medicine and former director of the Division of Geriatric Medicine at the medical school, is a nationally recognized authority on treating and preventing tuberculosis. He also is clinical director of the New Jersey Medical School's National Tuberculosis Center at UMDNJ, a state and national resource center opened last year to fight the resurgence of TB.

In his role as national chairman of the Advisory Council, Dr. McDonald will make recommendations on the diagnosis, treatment and control of TB to various health institutions and physicians throughout the U.S.

As clinical director of the New Jersey Medical School's TB Center, Dr. McDonald develops state-of-the-art diagnostic, treatment and prevention programs. He has also helped develop new treatments through clinical drug trials and basic science research.

Assemblywoman Gill honors Delta Sigma Theta Sorority

TRENTON—Citing the continued positive influence of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., Assemblywoman Nita Gill (D-Montclair) today announced that she will be honoring the sorority along with Senator Wynona Lipman and Assemblywoman Shirley Turner during a ceremony to the voting session of the General Assembly on March 28, 1994.

"The Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. has made a positive development and growth of more than 185,000 women throughout the world," Assemblywoman Gill said. "Their five point thrust was established in order to ensure a complete and well rounded person."

According to Gill, Delta's five point thrust is designed to provide women with a well rounded education. The five points include educational development, economic development, physical and mental health, political awareness and involvement and international awareness.

"The aim of the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority is more than social," Gill stated. "The goal is to provide

women with a support system which will augment the development of quality educational and economic backgrounds."

According to the Assemblywoman, Delta's pursuit of educational excellence takes the form of scholarships and grants to individuals members and local chapters. They address concerns about America's physical health and mental health through education programs, health fairs and the provision of health care services.

The sorority develops political awareness through voter registration and education programs, workshops and seminars highlighting elected public officials. The sorority's international work includes the building and maintenance of a maternity wing at the Thika Memorial Hospital in Kenya, West Africa.

"I think one of the positive things that the Delta's do is their 'Adopt a Black Business Program,' Gill commented. "This program seeks to assist black entrepreneurs to reach a product 'self-sufficiency level' in business. It is a program which is a much needed in our community."

Zeta Phi Beta Sorority honors women of the year

WESTFIELD—Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. Gamma Omicron Zeta Chapter, recently held its annual Final Fraternity Observation award dinner.

The award for "Woman of the Year" was presented to Mrs. Vernell V. Wright, who is a principal of Central Five-Jefferson School in Vauxhall. Her thirty plus years of experience includes teaching, supervision, curriculum, and program development.

She has been awarded Woman of the Year by the Five Point Branch of the YWCA and Connecticut Farms Junior Women's Club. She is also the recipient of the Volunteer Service Award from the Superior Court of New Jersey and Regional Administrator Citation from the Department of Health and Human Services.

Brown is the 1994 Zeta of the Year, an alumna of Winston-Salem State University, Rutgers University and the New Jersey Institute of Psychotherapy and Psychoanalysis. She

retired from the Division of Youth and Family Services in July 1993 and has a private practice as a Psychanalyst in South Orange. A member of Elmwood Presbyterian Church, she is an Elder and chairperson of the Youth Ministry Unit.

Sisters Deseree Graham of Jersey City and Tiwana Steward of East Orange were named undersecretary of the Year. Graham is a senior at Rutgers University and Steward is a senior at Montclair State College.

Joan Aaron of Somerset received the award as Amica of the Year, Joanna Hamer of Irvington was named Archonette of the Year, and Rachel Woronoff of Hillside was named Amica of the Year.

Scholarship recipients this year were Tanisha Crawford of Central High School, Benita Benfield of Orange High School, Lauren Woods of Weequahic High School, and Anide Jean, Shante Holmes and Marie Vincent of Irvington High School.

Coping

by Dr. Charles W. Faulkner

Should black men date white women?

Says Ms. W. of Greenville, N.C., "Now look at that, you've got an angry black woman, an embarrassed black man, and an emotionally upset white woman. That just goes to show that inter-racial dating is not worth the trouble."

So the inter-racial dating phenomena that has become so firmly entrenched in several major American cities, has initiated a small tidal bomb whose explosion is slowly reverberating throughout society—engaging black males as well as white females.

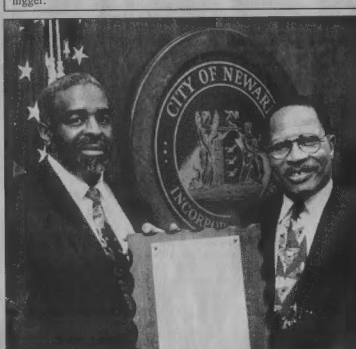
Diana Ross once said that she married a white man because she could find few black men on her economic level. Bob Jenkins, a black attorney in Seattle, W.A. said, "I really would prefer to date a woman of color, but I cannot find many who think as I do. For instance, I am an agnostic who seriously questions whether there is a God. All of the black women I know are so religiously-inclined that they would not even consider dating a man who did not profess an un-diminishing belief in the supreme being. Also, I don't believe in astrology, yet the first thing that many black women ask is, 'what's your sign?' There are probably a lot of black women who are scientific thinkers, just like I am, but I haven't had much success in finding them, so when I found Anne, who is white, and is a scientific thinker, just like me, I jumped at the opportunity to develop a relationship with her. What's wrong with that? I don't want to be lonely anymore than do black women."

Some black women have characterized this point-of-view as anti-black. Others refer to it as "inflicting black blood." Still others refer to it as "betrayal." And many black women are not shy about openly, even publicly, expressing their feelings on the issue.

Black men are often astounded at the virulence of the attacks that they receive from their female counterparts. One black male said, "I love my people, but I cannot understand how a black woman can criticize my personal choices and still say that she is making this a better world. She is just being divisive." The opposition to the social partnership of black males with white females is just another episode in the continuing problematic saga of black male-female relationships.

But, while black women argue for indirect control of black male dating, black males ask, "whose life is it anyway?" While black females attempt to keep black males for themselves, black males wonder, "What should I do if too few black females are compatible with my philosophical and personal needs?"

It goes without saying that some black males become quite defensive when questioned about their romances with white women. Some, on the other hand, even agree that they are betraying their race. Still others simply avoid the troubling psychological issue by not venturing socially beyond their own racial boundaries. This obvious rationalization was stated by one black male to save his conscience, "I don't date white women. I know that back in their minds, they think that they are better than I. One day, when we have a disagreement, they might forget themselves and call me a 'nigger'."



Mayor Sharpe James of Newark (right) recently presented Imam Ali K. Muslim of the Masjid Mohammed-Newark with a proclamation commemorating the recent conclusion of the Islamic month of fasting. For Muslims, this observance represents the personal victory of men and women over their unrestrained appetites and urges. Ramadan is concluded by the Eid-ul-Fitr. A three-day celebration which celebrates the triumph over one's personal desires.

Pathmark announces relief program to help Edison residents

WOODBIDGE—Woodbridge Pathmark Stores Inc. has announced a Checkout Relief program to help the victims of the Edison explosion. Pathmark customers can ask cashiers to add \$1.00 to their shopping order. It is donated to the American Red cross Disaster Relief Fund.

In addition, Pathmark Stores Inc. is also making donations of cash and products to the relief efforts. The program is available at all the Pathmarks in Middlesex County: Edison, South Plainfield, Old Bridge, Middletown, Brick, Brubruk, North Brunswick, Woodbridge and Hopewell.

City News

"Your Newspaper of Choice"

Who says the City is a jungle?



City News Publishing Company
serving New Jersey African-American community for
10 Years

Girl Scouts honor women of distinction



WEST ORANGE—The Girl Scout of Greater Essex County recently honored three women and the Prudential Insurance Company of America on March 10, at its annual "Women of Distinction Luncheon."

Juliana Beltsaak, Barbara Redford and Emily (Clay) Houston were honored as positive role models, for representing the ideals of the Girl Scout "Promise and Law," and for their significant efforts made to improve their communities.

The World of Well-Being Award was presented to Juliana Beltsaak. The World of People Award was presented to Barbara Redford. Clay Houston received the Girl Scout World of Arts Award and the 1994 Corporate Award was presented to the Prudential Insurance Company. (L-R) Jean Lillen, Girl Scout Council executive director, Barbara Redford, Donald Mann, Senior VP of HR Prudential, Clay Houston, Juliana Beltsaak and Charlotte Coffin, Girl Scout Council President.

National News

at a glance

by Robert N. Taylor

(Continued from page 1)

and other financial institutions which do provide mortgages. The program consists of 11 initiatives called "Showing America A New Way Home." Details on the 11 initiatives can be gotten from Fannie Mae, 3900 Wisconsin Avenue, NW., Washington, DC, 20016.—WASHINGTON, DC

Report: South Africa instigated much black on black crime: A judicial commission released a report last week suggesting that much of the black-on-black violence which has torn South Africa apart in recent years was instigated by security forces of the white minority government. Specifically, the report says South African police gave weapons to members of the Zulu-based Inkatha Freedom Party to attack and massacre members of the Nelson Mandela-led African National Congress. According to the report, the secret police campaign started in 1989 and lasted "until the very recent past." The report backed long-standing charges by Mandela that "a third force" had been supporting the Inkatha attacks on other black groups. Despite last week's devastating report, Inkatha maintained its opposition to Mandela and pledged to boycott next month's free elections which are expected to lead to the election of Mandela as the country's first black president.—PRETORIA, SOUTH AFRICA

Study finds blacks tend to be overweight more than whites: The government reported last week that despite healthier diets, the average weight of young American adults has risen by 10 pounds in the last seven years. The same study found that on average black Americans weigh more than white Americans. The study by University of Alabama epidemiologist Dr. Cora Lewis found the average African American male aged 25-30 weighed 185.8 pounds. This is about four pounds heavier than the average white male in the same age group who weighs 181.9 pounds. Meanwhile, 25-30 year old black women averaged 166.2 pounds which is nearly 16 pounds heavier than the average white woman (25 to 30) who weighs 150.8 pounds. There may be genetic reasons explaining why blacks tend to weigh more than whites but some experts cite a lack of exercise.—TAMPA, FL

Poet Laureate Rita Dove joins attack on "Gangsta Rap": The nation's first black poet laureate Rita Dove last week joined in the growing attack on so-called gangsta rap music. Critics charge the rap tunes glorify violence and demean women. Dove repeated the criticisms of many women's groups and labeled gangsta rap lyrics "violent, intolerant and too commercialized." Despite such criticisms, music industry surveys show gangsta rap music sales at an all time high and now a majority of those buying the music are white and suburban.—WASHINGTON, DC

Alabama principal suspended over racist remark to mixed race student: A white Alabama high school principal was suspended last week in part because he told a 16-year-old student whose father is white and mother is black that she was a "mistake" who should have never been born. The controversy began when Randolph High School Principal Hulond Humphries tried to ban interracial dates at the senior prom. Several students confronted Humphries. Among them was ReVonda Bowen who, because she was mixed race asked, "Who am I suppose to take to the prom?" Humphries reportedly said, "That's just it. Your mommy and daddy made a mistake, and I'm going to see to it that no other mistakes like that are made." The comments created a stir in the east central Alabama town of Wedowee. An emotional school board meeting resulted in Humphries being suspended until further investigation. However, shortly after the suspension 100 vehicles drove through the center of town in support of Humphries. The county has about 20,000 people and is 76 percent white and 24 percent black.—WEDOWEE, AL

Bill Cosby gives building to women's group: Entertainer Bill Cosby and his wife Camille have donated a nearly two million dollar building to the National Council of Negro Women. The NCNW will use the building to establish the National Center for African American Women.—WASHINGTON, DC

HIV blacks appear to get less help: A study in the Baltimore, Maryland area suggests that blacks infected with the virus (HIV) who cause AIDS are less likely than whites to receive medications which can prolong their lives. The study was conducted by researchers at Johns Hopkins University. Government officials have pledged to correct the situation.—BALTIMORE, MD

NAACP to challenge major telephone, cable and video services

WASHINGTON, DC—The nation's oldest civil rights organization, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), launched a new civil rights objective today when they took aim at the Clinton Administration's high priority item the proposed "National Information Super Highway."

Prior to launching the new campaign NAACP National Board Chairman Dr. William E. Gibson and Executive Director/CEO Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis, first met privately with several associates and advisors.

The announced purpose was to provide last minute updates and information to NAACP officials and Chairman Gibson, before Gibson assumed the new NAACP Telecommunications Task Force and the names of the members who will sit on that Committee.

The purpose of the Task Force, according to Chairman Gibson, will be to "help formulate policy and programmatic recommendations that will be aimed at bringing a more focused civil rights perspective to the ongoing federal, state and local deliberations now in progress."

The ultimate objective is to assure that African Americans are part of the ownership, management and total employment package. This participation can only happen if the African American community par-

DRUMS IN THE GLOBAL VILLAGE

'SISTAS IN CHARGE: black press editors' and publishers' views on the future of the black press

by Todd Burroughs

Florestine Purnell, managing editor of Emerge magazine, said she sometimes gets a pause and an "Oh!" when she tells male callers looking for "the person in charge" that they have found her.

The black editor-publisher world historically has never been a "Men's Only" social club, but more and more sisters today are calling the shots in established general black newspapers and magazines. They are making sure that they and their perspective are represented in coverage. And they are creating their own publications—both general and gender-based. New Jersey newspaper and magazine editor-publisher Jan Johnson said some outsiders think her husband and partner, Dr. Henry C. Johnson, is in charge.

"When I go out in public, (mostly guys) say, 'Where's your husband?'" looking at her as if she was second-in-command, said Johnson. She explains that is probably because Henry does much of the public appearances representing the firm. The Plainfield-based couple publish several periodicals. They include: YES (Youth Excited about Success) magazine; a national youth-oriented periodical, Minority Business Journal of New Jersey; a statewide monthly business-or-

ented tabloid, and City News, a weekly newspaper serving New Jersey's Greater Newark and Plainfield areas.

Johnson said that although her fellow co-founder of City News Publishing Co. and YES Communications, Inc. is very sensitive to women's issues and concerns, her presence "ensures" that view is present.

Others interviewed said gender is not a great consideration in their jobs. "I never thought much about it," said Lucile Bluford, editor-publisher of the Kansas City Call. Bluford, a living journalism legend in Kansas City, Mo., is also known for her racial discrimination lawsuit against the University of Missouri's College of Journalism when they denied her admittance during the segregation era. Bluford said the discrimination she remembers most had to do with her being black, not female.

Marilyn Marshall, a former Ebony senior associate editor and now managing editor of the Houston Defender, a black weekly newspaper, explained she has had female editors for most of her prior white press career. And Defender publisher Sonceria Messiah-Jiles, who is well-known in the Houston community, is also a woman. "The female aspect doesn't come into play that much, or maybe it's just that I don't see it," she said.

Brenda Hughes Andrews, president and publisher of the Norfolk

(Va.) Journal and Guide, said she's sure there is an element of sexism in how others judge her within the black community. But the civil rights activist and former U.S. Army sergeant said she is used to dealing with those problems. "I know racism is real and I know sexism is real," but the focus should be on moving past those barriers, she said.

These sisters have moved on, past racism by whites, and past sexism by blacks and blacks—directly to the top of their own journalistic mountains. Brenda Hughes Andrews, civil rights leader, former U.S. Army wire service reporter and now president and publisher of the New Norfolk (Va.) Journal and Guide, called herself a "crusader" in a newspaper interview five years ago that detailed her struggle to save the Guide.

The present crusade for the founding president of the Virginia Black Press Association/Continuing her community activities, incorporated in an organization called SaFire. It is a three-year-old women's section in the black weekly and the name for several conferences the newspaper hosts. Andrews said the Guide has sponsored all sorts of SaFire events, including a men's cookfest and a SaFire youth conference, the latter of which was held last year. But SaFire is more than a name. It is a movement that builds women, the black community—and the Guide. Andrews said the name comes from

the character "Sapphire" from the old "Amos 'n' Andy" radio and television show. She was a negative stereotype of an African American woman as overly aggressive and male-bashing, according to Andrews.

Her section and her organization were formed and named such to counter that negative image of black women and to work to build the black community, she added.

Direct community involvement by the Black Press, such as exemplified by Andrews and her SaFire concept, is part of the work the black media will have to do to be relevant.

Jan Johnson's vision of the Black Press includes expanding its reach to America's increasing non-white population. Johnson, said the browning of America gives black media "a great opportunity to capitalize" on reaching a community "that the majority media has been trying to get a foothold in."

The Black Press can become "the medium of choice" not just for African Americans, according to Johnson, but for white business and political leaders so they can understand black people and their concerns. Florestine Purnell, managing editor of Emerge magazine, said black publishers must tailor their publications to those in the community who hold the economic and cultural power, "those" meaning (Continued on page 10)

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OPINION

EDITORIAL

It was a Miracle

That's all anyone can say about the Edison pipeline fire. Not one person died from what could have been an inferno for the thousand-plus who fled their homes that evening.

We are saddened by the loss of irreplaceable valuables that were consumed in the fire; however, none is more precious than the lives that were spared in the brief 7 to 10 minutes before hell broke loose.

We commend those whose clear thinking led the way that evening. We commend those who helped to shelter and care for the victims. We commend those victims for the courage they have shown by coping with this horrendous disaster.

We also commend the quick response by local Edison officials as well as Governor Whitman and her administration in providing help for the victims and investigating and cause of this fire.

Last but certainly not least, we urge everyone to support the Red Cross relief effort by sending them donations of money. They are consistently on the front line of every crisis and they need and deserve our support.

For those of us who were awakened by the roar of the fire and the brightly lit orange sky, all we can say is "It was a miracle. Thank God for miracles."

Letters to the editor

Sexism and racism prevalent in Essex County Division of Employment Training

Dear Connie:

I enjoy reading your column each week and benefit from your political experience, astuteness and correct interpretations. Therefore, I am furnishing you with the following information. Governor Christie Whitman's Cabinet appointments clearly demonstrate her commitment to breaking the "glass ceiling" for minorities, including African-American women.

On the other hand, the Essex County Division of Employment Training (which is funded through the State under the Federal Job Training Partnership Act as amended in 1992) chooses to layoff a disproportionate number of African-American females. Of the eight people laid-off in February by ECDTE, two were white males, one white female, and five African-American women. At the present time, two other African-American women are being stripped of duties that they have previously performed excellently; and said duties reassigned to all-Caucasians.

Apparently, the sparse voter turnout for Florio in the Urban Areas of Essex County had no impact on the Essex County Democratic choice that would be, or would be, or would be "Powers" struggling to raise the Phoenix of the Essex County Democratic "invincibility," from the Ashes of the November 1993 debacle.

While former Freeholder, Linda Lordi Cavanaugh, has a \$78,000.00 new position created for her by the reorganized Essex County Improvement Authority, as well as a \$15,000.00 position as a counselor for the same Essex County Authority, long-term African-American Women employees have been laid off from their jobs of whom made more than \$25,000.00 per year.

Anonymous

Our children need representatives who care

Dear editor:

Plainfielders should elect Cecil Vincent, Veronica Taylor, and Lynne Richard to the school board on April 19. If they do that, they will drive out of office the arrogant, self-serving, and incompetent leadership that currently afflicts them. And they will create a new board majority made up of highly principled, independent, thoughtful, and honest public servants.

There is in the city a Plainfield Education Coalition which urges us to vote for a "late" that includes two of the three candidates mentioned above, but not Mr. Vincent. But it is precisely Mr. Vincent's election which is truly essential to the success of a new majority. He served on the board of education with distinction for six years. He and his wife were actively involved in the schools before his election to the board, and they have remained so after he chose not to run for reelection three years ago.

Mr. Vincent is universally admired by those of us who share a vision of a fine school system which will be headed by an able and dedicated superintendent, and is staffed throughout by knowledgeable, caring, and compassionate adults. A school system which is free at last of power brokers who have used their influence to further their personal and professional needs, and have given only lip service to the best interests of all our children.

So, voters should ignore all talk of sales, reject the current board leadership, and vote for Cecil Vincent first and foremost, and then for two qualified and energetic women Veronica Taylor and Lynne Richard.

Sincerely yours

Herbert T. Green
Vernell Patrick, Jr.



by Connie Woodruff

Petitions have been filed and validated for persons who will be candidates for mayor and city council in Newark, and those who will be on the ballot are getting down to the business of campaigning in a hurry.

The field is crowded. The pace will be fast and voters can expect to be drawn in rhetoric for the next month and a half.

Mayor James and incumbent City Councilmen have been on the trail for months. They definitely have a leg up on their opponents in fundraising, but that's one of the perks of holding elected office.

West Ward Councilman Ron Rice and East Ward Councilman Hank Martinez are the only incumbents running uncontested.

Mayor James will face William "Bill" Payne, brother of Congressman Donald Payne, Dr. Colleen



by Sharon Khadijah Vincent

It's unfortunate, that a tragedy has to occur, before action is taken to deal with a problem that should have been previously addressed. Such is the case, with the explosion that took place in Edison, New Jersey last week, which destroyed more than 100 apartments and left hundreds homeless and devastated. A weakened high pressure gas pipeline was cited as the cause of the explosion. How the pipeline was weakened is still being investigated, but preliminary reports from the National Transportation Safety Board state that the gas pipeline may have been damaged by construction equipment or other objects that dented and weakened it.

Governor Christie Whitman has requested that all of New Jersey's natural gas pipelines be inspected to insure that all lines are structurally intact and safe. This will, hopefully, help in finding potential problems that could lead to explosions and fires resulting in the loss of lives and property. In addition, Governor

Walton, a six-year resident of Newark and Ras Baraka, one of the sometimes controversial community activist, Amiri Baraka.

Eleven candidates will try to unseat incumbent councilmen-at-large, Council President Gary Harris, Rep. Ralph T. Grant, Jr. and Donald Tucker. Marie Villani resigned from the fourth at-large seat earlier this year.

The challengers are an interesting mix of folks from Newark's five wards and have varying degrees of experience and exposure in city politics. They are current members of Newark Board of Education, several are attorneys. Nationalities include African American, Italian and Latino. There's a minister, a warden of the county jail, a teacher and a city hall employee in the group.

Names like Mildred Crumb, a front-runner making a third bid for election, Luis Quintana, Deputy Mayor under Sharpe James, Geraldine (Gigi) Ford of Essex County Ward and Rev. Levin West, director of the Grace Manor Senior Citizen Housing in the Central Ward, are immediately recognizable.

Others include Frank Petalino and James Pecor, a couple of long time city activist, Bessie Walker, vice chairwoman of the Central Democratic

committee, Augusto Amadore, Newark Brd. of Ed., Gayle Chaneyfield, Sandra Simpson-Addison and a young attorney, Remy Marie Quinones.

South Ward council Donald Bradley is ending his first term by facing a challenge from a long time ward councilman Lee B. Fisher.

Veteran North Ward councilman Tony Carrino will be defending his seat against Armando Aviles and Gerald Pastore. There is a strong feeling in the ward that the time has come to elect a Hispanic councilman in recognition of the rapidly growing Puerto Rican majority.

George Branch, who broke the one-term-and-out "jinx" that haunted Central Ward councilmen for years, is on the hot seat again with four candidates who want to retire him from local politics.

His opponents include a former Central Ward Democratic Party chairwoman, Saidi Nguvu, two women tenant advocates, Bernice Robinson and Mary Rose and a political newcomer, Abduh Shahid Ahmad.

It's welcome back time for The Melting Pot at their new address 103 1/2 McCarter Highway, Newark.

Whose fault was it?

Whitman issued an order to all natural gas suppliers in New Jersey to reduce their pipeline pressures by 5 percent.

The Edison tragedy has brought important safety and environmental issues to light. First and foremost, is the fact that most people are totally unaware that they are either living in buildings or houses that are built directly over these gas pipelines or very close to them. Consumer activist Ralph Nader has criticized those federal agencies responsible for the monitoring and review of federal natural gas safety regulations, and accuses them of failing to install new equipment such as recommended automatic shut-off valves because of pressure from the pipeline industry. Nader believes that the pipeline industry concerns about the costs involved in upgrading and installing these valves outweighed the safety issues and concerns. He has also called for congressional hearings into the Edison explosion.

It's truly a miracle, that there was only one fatality in the Edison explosion. In order to avoid future tragedies, the inspection and safety issues

need to be immediately addressed. With the discovery, that they could possibly be living in houses or buildings that were built over a series of connecting pipelines owned by different companies, such as the Texas Eastern Transmission Corporation, which owns the pipeline that blew up in Edison, local residents are expressing alarm and concerns. People living in these areas should be kept informed and updated about inspections, emergency procedures, and evacuation plans in case of incidents occurring similar to the one in Edison.

The possible existence of inferior pipelines across the state should be of concern to all of us. Mr. Nader has also suggested that the request for inspection of all pipelines by Gov. Whitman may not be able to be carried out as scheduled, due to a shortage of inspectors and resources. Since the Edison tragedy has forced the spotlight on this problem, maybe, more inspectors will now be hired.

There is also a problem with inferior and deficient steel being used in the construction of these natural gas and oil pipelines. Those companies found to be using inferior products should be investigated and exposed. This may prove to be another

When the "Pot" closed up its Commerce Street location it was crying time for jazz lovers who enjoyed the downtown bistro and now they're back again, but open Wednesday, Thursday and Friday only with dinner and entertainment served from 5 p.m. to 10 p.m. and a late night menu available until 2 a.m.

However, the Pot is available 7 days a week for catered functions and special events with chefs specializing in international cuisine and soul food to satisfy the most finicky taste buds.

Congratulations to Della Moses Walker for receiving a regional award for the greatest number of (real estate) listings in 1993.

This is the latest of numerous awards for Ms. Walker, a sales associate with Weichert Realtors' Caldwell-West Orange area office. Her past sales accomplishments qualified her for memberships to the N.J. State Million Dollar Club and the company's Million Dollar Club.

Prior to joining Weichert Realtors, Della was a special assistant to Senator Wynona Lipman and worked with the Newark Black Churchmen's Association with the (New Jersey) South Ward Republican Committee. She is a trustee at St. James AME Church.

example of profits being placed in higher regard than lives and safety of people.

The disruption in the lives of all those residents who have had their houses, cars and other personal possessions destroyed, cannot ever be adequately compensated. One million people are in the relative safety of their house or apartments, and the next, they're running from an enormous explosion and fire, fighting to save their lives. The emotional trauma suffered, will undoubtedly stay in the minds of most who survived this nightmare experience for a long time to come.

Those officials who failed to monitor the inspection of these pipelines or who allowed greed to interfere with safety issues or concerns need to be investigated. If individuals knowingly allowed inferior steel to be used in the construction of pipelines, the public needs to be informed and possible criminal charges filed.

Governor Whitman should demand and receive assurances from the companies operating and owning pipelines in New Jersey that they will do whatever is necessary regardless of the costs, to insure and protect the safety and welfare of all NJ residents.

CHILDWATCH

Ranking A Nation

by Marian Wright Edelman

"Every gun that is made, every warship launched, every rocket fired signifies... a theft from those who hunger and are not fed, those who are cold and are not clothed. This world in arms is not spending money alone. It is spending the sweat of its laborers, the genius of its scientists, the hope of its children." President Dwight D. Eisenhower

Although the Cold War is over, more than \$25 billion in 1994 will go to the Pentagon, \$32.5 million an hour, \$781 million a day, \$5.5 billion a week and \$23.8 billion a month. Only \$3.3 billion will go to Head Start and less than \$3 billion to training and summer jobs for youths. Yet, each day in America 100,000 children are homeless, 2,868 babies are born into poverty, and during the course of a school day, 2,255 teenagers decide to drop out of school.

Our decisions about spending on military might, rather than investing in solid educational opportunities for our children and necessary supports for our families are already catching up with us.

Today American ranks....

- #1 in arms exports.*
- #1 in military expenditures.*
- #1 in military bases worldwide.*
- #1 in military training of foreign forces.*
- #1 in military aid to foreign countries.*
- #1 in naval fleet.*
- #1 in combat aircraft.*
- #1 in nuclear reactors.*
- #1 in nuclear warheads and bombs.*
- #3 in armed forces.*
- #4 in literacy rate.*
- #6 in GNP per capita.*
- #9 in public education expenditures per capita.*
- #10 in years of life expectancy.*
- #11 in public education expenditures per student.
- #11 in public health expenditures per capita.*
- #12 in school-age population per teacher.*

- #14 in maternal deaths.**
- #15 in primary school-age populations in schools.*
- #15 in percent of population using family planning.*
- #19 in death rates of children young or than five.*
- #20 in the average number of births per woman.*
- #21 in infant mortality rate.*
- #22 in population per physician.*
- #24 in economic aid given as a percent of GNP.*

#25 in population with sanitation.*

#27 in the differences between the actual and expected national performance of our children.

Do we need a new aircraft carrier, which will cost \$5 billion in 1995, more than we need after-school and weekend summer programs for children and youths? Do we need the \$6 billion Sea Wolf submarine more than we need jobs for parents off welfare? Do we need an F-22 fighter plane to the tune of \$25 billion to counter a phantom next-generation Russian fighter more than we need health coverage for 37 million uninsured Americans? Every American needs to ask our political leaders these questions, demand straight answers, and make them stop the political posturing and partisan one-upmanship. Tell them whether you want our country to be number one in healthy, educated children or to continue building more extraordinarily costly weapons for which there is not demonstrated need, when our current arsenal already can destroy the world many times over.

I am for maintaining a strong national defense. But, the Pentagon should be held to the same standard of efficiency, need, and sacrifice as our children and families and citizens struggling for survival.

(*) Among 140 countries. Source: Ruth Leger Sivard, World Military and Social Expenditures, 15th Edition, 1993.

(**) Among industrialized countries. Source: UNICEF, The Progress of Nations, 1993.

City People want to know

The following is the result of a recent telephone poll taken by City News on the question, "Is Minister Farrakhan a Minister of Hate?"


27% of the respondents said yes
73% of the respondents said no

Next Question

Do you believe that Governor Whitman's plan to eliminate the Department of High Education is a good one? YES or No

Call (908) 754-3400 with your answer.

Responses will be in the April 13 issue of City News



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MONDAY, APRIL 4

EDISON—NAACP Youth Council Meeting, 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Minnie B. Veal Community Center, Inman and Grove Ave. in Edison. For more information call 908-548-7938.

FRIDAY, APRIL 8

PLAINFIELD—"A Journey For Salvation" to benefit The Plainfield Youth Teen Program. A Dynamic musical by Donna Walker Coe that takes a look at inner city life and the treacherous influx of drugs in the community. Plainfield High School Auditorium, 950 Park Ave., 7 p.m. For ticket information call 908-753-3192 or 753-8216.

SATURDAY, APRIL 9

SUMMIT—"Fabric Printing," workshop (ages 5-9) with Lynn Celler. Decorate your own tee shirt with fabric crayons and sponge printing designs. All materials provided, 3:30-5 p.m., \$10 child + \$3 for materials. For more information call 908-273-9121.

SATURDAY, APRIL 16

SUMMIT—The New Jersey Center for Visual Arts has added second sections of the popular "Cartooning: People and Animals (Ages 8-10)," "Comic Book Art (Ages 9-14)," and "Puppets (Ages 3-6)" workshops. 2-3:30 p.m., mail or bring in applications to the Art Center, 68 Elm St. NJ, 07901 or call for more information 908-273-9121.

SEND KID KALENDAR
EVENTS TO:

City News

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Annual Cherry Blossom 10K Run and Children's Fun Run

NEWARK—Applications are now available for the 1994 Cherry Blossom 10K Run, sponsored by PruCare, The Prudential Health Plan.

The annual run through Branch Brook Park will take place on Sunday, April 17, beginning at 10 a.m. The pre-registration fee for the run is \$7.50 for Essex County residents and \$10 for out-of-county runners.

The pre-registration deadline is April 6, with race registration beginning at 8 to 9:15 a.m. Registration fee will be \$12 regardless of residency. Tee-shirts will be given to the first 1,000 pre-registrants.

In addition to the 10K run, PruCare is also sponsoring a Children's Fun Run that day beginning at 9 a.m. This run is free to children 12 and under. Registration for this event will take place on race day from 8 to 8:45 a.m.

The age groups for the 10K run are 14 and under, 15 to 19, 20 to 29, 30 to 39, 40 to 49, 50 to 59, and 60 and over. Prizes will be awarded to the top three male and female runners overall, and to the top three runners in each age category, male and female.

The age groups for the Children's Fun Run are 3 and under, 4 to 6, 7 to 9, and 10 to 12. All registered Fun Run participants will be awarded. For further information call Essex County Parks Department at 201-857-8530.

'94 HOBY congress to be held in Phoenix

PHOENIX, ARIZ.—The Hugh O'Brian Youth Foundation (HOBY) has selected Phoenix for the site of its 1994 World Leadership Congress.

Over 200 of the brightest high school sophomores from every state and 30 countries around the world will come together in Phoenix July 22-30 to explore the theme "The Role of the United States in the World Community."

O'Brian stated, "this is an opportunity for our future leaders to explore the nature and values of the world society."

Activities for the students will be held at Arizona State University, with possible excursions to the Arizona State Capitol, American West Arena, and the World Center.

Hugh O'Brian (also known as "TV's Wyatt Earp in the popular 60's television series) founded HOBY in 1958 following his visit to Dr. Albert Schweitzer in Africa. O'Brian was inspired by a quote from Dr. Schweitzer, which stated, "the most important thing in education is to teach young people to think for themselves." The goal of HOBY is to reward leadership potential in high school students. HOBY is supported by such prominent figures as President Bill Clinton, Walter Cronkite, R.E. "Ted" Turner, and President Ronald Reagan.

High school scholars attend lecture at WPC



WAYNE—Four high school students who were named overall Academic Achievers or Scholars in the William Peterson College 1993 Pre-College Academy last summer, returned to WPC to attend a lecture presented by George E. Curry, editor-in-chief of *Emerge* magazine, during the college's annual observance of African Heritage Month in February. The Pre-College Academy, held over a five-week period, is an academic enrichment program designed to encourage undergraduate matriculation, stimulate interest in the sciences, and provide students in grades 10 through 12 with the opportunity to interact with positive minority role models from the faculty and staff of WPC. The students, pictured with Curry (center), are all in their junior year. They are, from left, James Gist IV and Nyesha Camacho, Rosa Parks High School, Paterson; Danielle Antoine, St. Vincent's Academy, Newark; and Felicia Brown, Abraham Clark High School, Roselle.

Passaic youth excited about success

PASSAIC—Passaic High School senior, Adrian Rodriguez, has spent his lifetime helping others. As a senior peer leader, Adrian instills his leadership talents in his fellow peers and helps them learn to solve problems on their own. Freshman students look up to Adrian with dignity and admiration.

Born in Passaic, Adrian enjoys giving back to his community. He spent last summer distributing lunches to recreational participants in the city, and recently volunteered his services to campaign for a mayoral and congressional candidate. Presently, Adrian is a volunteer fireman and a Sunday school teacher in town.

The Latinos Scholars Program, a pre-college cultural and heritage leadership program sponsored by Rutgers, afforded Adrian the opportunity to travel to Spain last summer. "My experiences in Spain enabled me to visit many historical sites and cities. I also developed a sense of determination. I learned that if I want something in life, I should go out and get it."



Adrian, 19, belongs to numerous high school clubs: Spanish, biology, ski, African-American, and the football and track teams.

Adrian hopes to attend Jersey City State College next fall to major in fire science and minor in business administration. "I would like to eventually open a day care center for underprivileged women who can't afford regular day care for their children," says Adrian.

Summer camp registrations accepted for camp Hoover

WESTFIELD—Washington Rock Girl Scout Council recently announced that registrations are now being accepted for summer resident camp programs at Camp Hoover.

Girls entering grades 2 to 12 are invited to attend Camp Hoover. Participants do not have to be members of a Girl Scout troop to register. Located in Sussex County on 328 wooded acres of hillside overlooking Swartswood Lake, Camp Hoover's facilities include cabins and tents, a large dining hall, newly renovated program building, infirmary, office building and an extensive waterfront complex.

The summer programs at Camp

Hoover include mini-camp (3 night stays) or regular resident camp (weekly sessions) available from July 10 to August 20. Campers can choose a general or specialized program which may include outdoor adventures, gymnastics, horseback riding, boating, swimming, crafts, trips and much more. Trips can include hiking at a state park, a canoeing day trip, backpacking along the Delaware Water Gap or a tubing adventure on Swartswood Lake.

All waterfront activities are supervised by American Red Cross certified personnel, with a health supervisor on duty at all times. Camp Hoover is accredited by the American

Camping Association.

Registrations are filed on a first-come, first-serve basis without regard to race, religion, nationality, physical ability or socio-economic status. A camp brochure describing the sleep away camp, programs and fees are available by calling Washington Rock Girl Scout Council at 908-232-3236.

Register now for East Orange youth baseball program

EAST ORANGE—The East Orange Department of Recreation and Cultural Affairs is holding registration for city youth between the ages of six and 15 years interested in playing baseball.

Registration began on Monday, March 21, and will continue until April 12. To register, call the Recreation Department at 266-5252 between 9 a.m. and 7 p.m. Monday through Friday. The Recreation is also looking for volunteer coaches to participate in the baseball program.

Denise De Sousa wins AAA state poster contest

NEWARK—The AAA Automobile Clubs of New Jersey recently selected winners in their State School Traffic Safety Poster Program. Denise De Sousa, a second grade student at St. Francis Xavier School in Newark, won first place in the elementary (grades K-6) category.

For her efforts, De Sousa was awarded a \$100 check by the AAA New Jersey Automobile Club in Florham Park. Her entry "Wear A Helmet," has also been entered in the national judging which will be held at American Automobile Association headquarters in Heathrow, Florida.

The national winners will be announced in late May.

This year's contest themes are "Buckle Your Safety Belt," and "Play Away From Traffic" (grades K-6), and "Know Your Limits" (grades 7-12). For the first time, students were encouraged to develop their own safety slogan in English or another language (if English is their second language). First, second and third place winners were selected from the following grade categories: Junior (K-3), elementary (4-6), senior (7-9) and senior (10-12).



STATE WINNER—Denise De Sousa, displays her winning poster and prize check of \$100. The prize was awarded by Paul Kiehlbeck (left), safety manager for the AAA New Jersey Automobile Club in Florham Park.

Local youth invited to compete in the Arco Jesse Owens Games

PLAINFIELD—Local boys and girls born in the years 1980 through 1987 are eligible to participate in the Arco Jesse Owens Games on Saturday, May 7, 1994, at 9:00 a.m. Rain or Shine. Complete eligibility information is available from John Pepe, Director, or Claudette Lanneaux, Coordinator, of the local meet for the City of Plainfield, Division of Recreation. They can be reached by telephone at 908-753-3096, or in person at Plainfield City Hall, 515 Watchung Avenue, Plainfield, N.J.

The running and jumping events offered by the games are conducted in four age groups determined by the year of the child's birth: **Group I** 1986 or 1987, **Group II** 1984 or 1985;

Group III 1982 or 1983, **Group IV** 1980 or 1981. The youngsters compete in the events of their choice from a list including 50, 100, 200, 400 Meter Race, Running Long Jump, Running High Jump and Soft Ball Throw.

Youngsters placing first and second in the preliminary meet at Plainfield will qualify to participate in the Eastern Regional Championships to be held at LaSalle University in Philadelphia, on June 24, 1994. The 1st and 2nd place winners of the Regional Meet, in the two older age groups (Groups 3 & 4) will advance to the National Championships to be held in Los Angeles, California. Deadline for applications is Monday, May 2, 1994.

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Religious Calendar

FRIDAY, APRIL 1

PLAINFIELD—Crescent Ave. Presbyterian Church: Annual Benefit Concert for Muhlenberg Hospital, Good Friday. Chorus and orchestra, including original music by Artist in Residence. For more information call 908-756-2468.

PLAINFIELD—The 22nd Annual Good Friday Benefit Concert at Crescent Ave. Presbyterian Church. The concert will take place at 8:15 p.m. Located at 719 Weichung Ave. Tickets are available for a tax deductible donation of \$50. For more information call 908-668-2025.

ROSELLE—Good Friday Service. The Faith Tabernacle Church, Inc. 1037 Frank St. 12 noon & 7:30 p.m. Easter Sunday Service at 10:45 a.m.

FRIDAY, APRIL 8

JERSEY CITY—"The Pilgrim Jubilee," of Chicago Illinois in a Gospel Musical Concert. 7 p.m. at the Continents Baptist Church, 132 Bergen Ave. \$10 in advance, \$12 at the door. For more information call Ticket Outlet/Dore's Recording at 201-434-1618.

Send Religious Calendar events to:
City News
P.O. Box 1774
Plainfield, NJ 07060

Newark Boys Chorus in Concert at WHS



Members of the Newark Boys Choir during one of their performances

WESTFIELD—On Sunday, April 17th, the internationally acclaimed Newark Boys Chorus will perform in concert at Westfield Senior High School.

The Newark-based institution, founded as the Newark Boys Chorus School in 1968, has provided young men, 4th through 8th grades, with an unique opportunity to receive an intensive study in music, as well as traditional academic subjects and computer literacy. Their unique and rigorous training has prepared them well for the demanding 70 concert a year tour that they perform.

While performing mostly on the eastern seaboard of the United States, the Chorus has impressive international performance credits. They have performed before Pope John Paul VI, under the direction of the late Leonard Bernstein in Italy in the 1989 UNICEF World Music Festival in Tokyo. They have also been featured in concert in the People's Republic of China.

Featuring a broad repertoire of song from the spiritual, classical music traditions of Africa, Europe and the United States, the Chorus also has equally impressive performance credits here in the United States, including the Smithsonian

Lincoln Center, Carnegie Hall and the White House, before former President Bush.

Ernestine Howell, Executive Director of the Westfield Community Center stated, "at a time when young people are facing uniquely difficult circumstances, such as unprecedented social violence, AIDS, negative media coverage, and limited economic opportunities, we are proud and honored to be able to host such a distinguished group of young men, whose excellence and accomplishments are world renowned, for our young people to see and appreciate."

The Chorus's academic accomplishments are equally impressive. Since their inception, 97 percent of their graduates who are primarily from Newark and East Orange, have gone on to college.

The Concert will benefit the Westfield Community Center's ongoing programs, including the senior citizens program, after-school day care program for elementary school students, and the evening program for art areas.

Tickets for the event are \$10 in advance for adults; children under 12 and senior citizens tickets are \$7. Tickets are \$12 at the door. For further information, call 908-212-4759.

Health Calendar

EVERY MONDAY

EDISON—"Chemical Dependency Family Education" is currently being offered from 7 to 8 p.m. Sponsored by the JFK Center for Drug & Alcohol Prevention & Treatment, The O'Connell Office at 1152 St. George Ave. For more info, call 908-634-7910.

MONDAY THRU SATURDAY
NEWARK—Free confidential AIDS counseling and testing. Mon - Fri 9-6 p.m. Sat. 9-4 p.m. Newark Community Health Center, 101 Ludlow St. Call 201-565-0355 for appointment.

PLAINFIELD—Free confidential AIDS counseling and testing. Mon - Fri 9-6 p.m. Sat. 9-4 p.m. at Plainfield Health Center located at 609 W. Fourth St. For an appointment call 908-753-6401.

MARCH 24 - APRIL 21
PLAINFIELD—"Diabetes: You're In Control" 7-9 p.m. Thursday evenings. The course is offered for persons with Type 1 and diabetes and covers diet, exercise, and more. For more information call 908-668-2575. Pre-registration is required.

THURSDAY, MARCH 31
EDISON—"Quit and stay Out," an educational seminar for those interested in learning how to quit smoking. 7-9 p.m. at the JFK Medical Center every last Thursday of the month. For more information call 908-644-7910.

MONDAY, APRIL 3
WESTFIELD—A support group for people caring for elderly or chronically ill relatives meets on the first non-holiday Monday of each month at 8 p.m. in the parish center of St. Helen's Church on Lambert's Mill Rd. For more information call Marilyn Ryan at 908-233-8757.

SATURDAY, APRIL 2
PLAINFIELD—The Plainfield Area Chapter of The American Dietetic Association will begin scheduling classes for Community CPR, at 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. 552 West Front St. For information on other courses offered, call Connie Farr at 908-756-6414.

FRIDAY, APRIL 8
HAMILTON—"The Artistic Foundation" NJ Chapter will hold a free training workshop for new "Artists Self-Help Course," from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Hamilton Hospital. For more information call 908-288-4300.

MONDAY, APRIL 18
PLAINFIELD—Eye exams offered to older adults at the Plainfield Senior Citizen Center, 305 East Front St., from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. For more information call 753-3506.

Send Health Calendar events to:
City News
P.O. Box 1774
Plainfield, NJ 07060

How to live long, healthy and happy

by Robert N. Taylor

Living a life that is long, healthy and happy is now within the grasp of just about everyone. Essentially, you need to adopt certain basic habits. Just remember that your health and happiness are primarily the result of two things: Thoughts and Behavior. Thus, the most important rule for a long, healthy and happy life is to adopt good habits. Find out what is best and incorporate that behavior into your lifestyle. Among the most critical habits to adopt are the ones listed below:

1 Eat In Moderation & Vary Diet Most people living in advanced Western societies simply eat too much. And the thing we tend to eat too much of is fat-laden meat from land animals. Reduce your intake of land animal meats by frequently substituting with fish, fruits and vegetables. Fish, fruits and vegetables are anti-aging foods. Not only are they nutritionally beneficial but they also work to combat the negative effects of other foods and habits. Carrots, for example, can reduce the negative consequences of smoking.

2 Reduce Stress By Thinking Effectively! Unhealthy stress is one of the greatest killers known to human-kind. It makes virtually all diseases and ailments worse. Unresolved tensions, constant worrying and fear which produces anxiety are the greatest sources of stress. The optimum way to combat unhealthy stress is with effective thinking. Effective thinking is not necessarily positive thinking. Effective thinking is using your mind to solve problems not just to worry about them or get angry about them or just stay in a high state of anxiety. Every time you find yourself just getting angry, just worrying or just being anxious, ask yourself: "Is this solving anything?" "Is this the best use of my mental energy?" The answer will almost always be "no." You eliminate stress and make the most effective use of your mind by seeking concrete solutions to real problems.

3 Exercise Daily! The human body has evolved over millions of years to be used. And when you do not use it vigorously enough, you are violating a law of nature. And there is always a penalty for violating nature's laws. The penalty here is a weak, flabby, overweight body which becomes an easy victim to major diseases. You should exercise at least three days a week. And do both aerobic (running, fast-walking, dancing) exercise to strengthen the heart and lungs as well as strength (weight-lifting) exercise to tone and strengthen the body. This rule applies to both men and women.

4 Maintain A High Level of Positive Thoughts! As a communications expert, I disagree with those motivational speakers who urge people to "always think positive." I believe such an approach to life can produce neurosis or mental illness is taken to an extreme. There are times in life when you should be angry, upset or sad. All I suggest is this: Your positive thoughts should outweigh your negative thoughts by a ratio of at least four to one. Remember this: Thoughts produce actions, actions produce habits, habits produce character and your character determines your destiny. Thus, too many negative, useless thoughts can ruin your future. The best rule is to allow yourself brief periods of anger, anxiety or sadness. Do not fight these natural emotions. Your anger or sadness may be perfectly justified. Just keep such periods brief by returning to effective thinking and constructively seeking a way to solve the problem which prompted the anger or sadness.

There is a lot more to this topic. But the points listed above are the starting points for living a long, healthy and happy life. For a more detailed guide on the subject, you can write the non-profit *Better Life of America*, P.O. Box 28422, Washington, D.C. 20038. The guide entitled "How To Live" (\$7.50) shows you how to get the most out of life and make yours a long, healthy and happy one. And remember this admonition: "If you keep doing what you have been doing, you will keep getting what you have been getting. If you want a life that is new and better, you must do things which are new and better."

WIC's evening hours

NEWARK—The Special Supplemental Food Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC) will now be available to women in the Newark area during evening hours at UMDNJ.

The program which provides nutrition education and free vouchers for nutritious foods, is expanding its hours, operating from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. Hours on Mondays and Fridays remain at 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The WIC program is available to pregnant women and children, newborn to five-years-old, who are

at nutritional risk. Women receiving any form of public assistance, such as food stamps, Medicaid, Aid for Families with Dependent Children (welfare), Supplemental Security Income/Disability (SSI) of Jersey Care are automatically eligible for the WIC program.

The program is also available to those women and children who are not receiving public assistance, but whose income does not exceed 185 percent of the poverty level. That eligibility is approximately \$511 per week for a family of four. For additional information call 210-982-3416 or 3417.

UMDNJ Students bring healthcare education and services into inner cities

NEWARK—Using community churches and civic groups as a point of access, the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey (UMDNJ) has instituted an innovative program that brings preventive healthcare services directly into Essex County neighborhoods.

In the program, called Community 2000, medical, allied health, dental and nursing students from UMDNJ's Newark campus work with 12 Essex County churches and various community organizations to provide healthcare services and health education programs. The program, considered a national model, provides customized healthcare services based on each community's individualized needs.

Community 2000 is funded under "Health of the Public," an academic program supported by the Pew Charitable Trusts and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.

According to Dr. Cynthia Paige, faculty administrator of Community 2000, and assistant professor of clinical family medicine,

"when we started the program, we found that the two biggest healthcare concerns among those living in inner cities were access to services and a lack of healthcare educational information."

"In inner cities, churches are the hub of social, political and religious activity, we devised a program with church and civic leaders that includes preventive medicine and education designed specifically for each community group. If the community needs health fairs and screenings, we arrange them. If the need is for a preventive medicine lecture for teens, we arrange that. Our early efforts have concentrated on cardiovascular disease, nutrition and AIDS—health concerns most prevalent in the inner city."

In Community 2000's health promotion workshops at schools, churches and civic organizations, covering topics such as AIDS, nutrition and diabetes.

Bulletin boards are placed in each church, containing information on upcoming workshops, health screenings and health tips. UMDNJ also

hosts a free lecture series for the public at its Newark campus regarding the relationship between the urban and medical communities. The students are also developing a free community newsletter featuring general health tips.

In the preventive care component, Community 2000 sponsors a series of health fairs at area churches where students and faculty clinicians screen residents for basic dental and medical problems. Those requiring further care are referred back to UMDNJ's clinics.

Besides providing needed services to underserved populations, the program provides health-professions students with experience style skills that will make them socially responsible as they pursue their careers.

"We are showing our students that there is more to being a physician or a dentist than setting up a plate practice," says Dr. Paige. "The creative hands-on experience in dealing with a diverse patient population—then get to see the direct benefits of serving the community."

Report signals need for new treatments of obesity

CHICAGO—A Current research into obesity, released by the Institute of Food Technologists has revealed complex causes that demand new forms of treatment.

Obesity is the excessive accumulation of body fat, which occurs when one's energy intake exceeds energy expenditure. However, according to the report, "Human Obesity," published in the February issue of Food Technology, the cause of that imbalance goes beyond eating too much.

"It's not as simple as we once thought," said the report's principal author, Dr. Paul A. Lachance, professor and chairman of the Department of Food Science, Rutgers University. "Demographic and personal factors complicate the equation."

Obesity is common in industrialized countries. In the United States, the incidence is higher in the Northeast, Midwest and metropolitan areas than in other regions.

Black women are more likely than white women to be obese, and obesity is twice as prevalent among women than men. Low socio-economic status is also associated with a high incidence of obesity.

Hereditary, high-fat diets, cigarettes, drugs, childbirth, menopause, and physical inactivity are among the personal factors that influence obesity.

"Among current strategies for weight loss, combination diet-exercise behavior modification programs are most widely accepted," wrote

Lachance. "By exploiting results from current research on the role of genetic inheritance in individual susceptibility to obesity, and new findings on the mechanisms of the body fat gain, advances in obesity may be possible."

New treatment might include screening for genetic predisposition, measuring fat-free mass, recommending

diets with specifically altered chemical compositions, tailoring exercise regimens and adjusting life-style and prescribing specific drug interventions.

In 1993 the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services estimated that obesity afflicts more than one-third of the adult U.S. population.

Newark Fighting Back launches drug crisis hotline

NEWARK—The Newark Fighting Back Partnership and the Partnership for a Drug Free New Jersey, have joined forces to raise public awareness about drug and alcohol abuse; through a Public Service Announcement campaign featuring a 24-hour hotline to provide inner-city youth with immediate access to drug and alcohol counseling and support services.

NFPP, a division of the Boys and Girls Clubs of Newark, Inc., funded primarily through grants from the Center for Substance Abuse Prevention and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, is a city-wide effort to reduce the demand for drugs and alcohol in Newark. It's mission is to build the capacity of neighborhood residents and institutions to

create a social environment which resists drug and alcohol abuse.

The PSA campaign was announced by Joseph P. Miele, co-chair of the Partnership for a Drug-Free New Jersey, and Thomas McClellan, NFPP Executive Director. "This program is essential because it recognizes that everyone must take responsibility for the problems of drug and alcohol abuse. Law enforcement alone will never be the answer. Using the media opens the possibility for people to seek help and to become part of the solution," commented McClellan. "The program," according to Joseph P. Miele, "encompasses an extensive public service campaign designed to discourage drug use among youth and publicize the hotline number."

The new 24-hour hotline number is 800-696-7063.

Important facts on how to prevent children's poisoning

ITASCA, ILL.—Everyday children are poisoned by household chemicals and medicines because parents and caregivers don't take the appropriate precautions to ensure safety.

Some important facts to know include:

- Keep all poisonous products tightly capped in their original containers, out of reach and sight of children.
- Medicines, cleaning materials, automotive products, fuels, pesticides and other household chemicals must be kept away from children at all times.

Additional information on poison prevention can be obtained by requesting a copy of "Protecting Young Children From Poisoning." Send a self-addressed business size envelope with postage to National Safety Council Dept. PR-3P, P.O. Box 588, Itasca Ill. 60143-0558

Career and life Counseling Center launches mother-daughter program

HACKENSACK—The Career and Life Counseling Center, in Hackensack is offering a Mother-Daughter Program for adolescent girls and their mothers. The program is designed to prepare young women for the kinds of decisions they will be making as they move into adulthood and to encourage communication between mothers and daughters.

This six session workshop will be held every Wednesday beginning April 26, through May 18, at 8:30 a.m. The fee is \$25.00, and scholarships are available for eligible participants. For more information and to register call 201-343-6000, Ext. 275 or 299.

Registration for surplus food

PLAINFIELD—Plainfield Action Services will continue to pre-register Plainfield residents for free surplus food until April 29, Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 12 noon and 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. For more information or clarification, call 908-753-3519.

CITY BUSINESS

Business Calendar

NOW THROUGH APRIL 21

HACKENBACK—"Career Exploration," workshop for women. Career planning, self exploration, and information on the world of work and the skills needed in today's job market. Mon.-Thurs. 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. \$55 fee. For more information call 201-343-6000. Ext. 275.

SATURDAY, MARCH 5-MAY 14

JERSEY CITY—Jersey City State College offers a six session "Law School Admissions Test (LSAT) Review." This course is designed to help law school candidates prepare for the LSAT. Classes meet on Saturdays, 9:00 A.M. to 12:00 P.M. Tuition is \$135.00. To register call (201) 200-3089.

EVERY 1ST FRIDAY

NEWARK—Business network, buffet, and dance party. Every 1st Friday of the month at Sheraton Inn Newark Airport (Rte 1 & 9 North). 5:30 P.M.-1:00 P.M. \$15 a.m. & 7:00 p.m. 8:00 P.M.

TUESDAY, APRIL 5

NORTH BRANCH—Business Card Exchange, Somerset County Chamber of Commerce's Monthly Networking Social. 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the Valley Community College. Cocktail reception. Entertainment by the RVC Jazz Ensemble. Free planetarium shows. To register call 908-725-1552.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 27

WEST ORANGE—Seton Hall University's Second Annual Job Fair. Main Lounge & Chancellor's Suite, at the Bishop Dougherty Student Center. Registration from 8 a.m. - 8:45 a.m. Networking 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. \$25/plate (Breakfast Lunch). For more information call Lizzy Pinto or Beth Reynolds at 201-761-9355/FAX 201-761-9309.

Send business events to

City News

144 N. Ave. Plainfield, NJ 07060

Minority firms get mandatory piece of RTC

Legislation Requires Five to 10 Percent of Contracts Over \$500,000

by Peter Woolfolk

Washington, DC—Women and minority-owned firms got a major boost in doing business with the Resolution Trust Corporation (RTC) from recently enacted legislation requiring this coverage of failed savings and loans companies, and associated assets, to ensure the inclusion of minority firms as subcontractors on any contracts exceeding \$500,000.

This information was revealed to the public for the first time during a recent Minority Asset Recovery Contractors (MARCA) conference by a

representative of RTC, which has the responsibility of implementing the regulations of the bill passed by Congress. The bill requires a minimum of 5 to 10 percent minority firm participation.

The two-day event in the nation's capital was designed to guide minority firms toward increasing their share of business with RTC and other financial regulatory agencies.



WASHINGTON, D.C.—Thousands of tobacco industry workers from throughout the Southeast traveled to Washington D.C., to protest the Clinton Administration's plan to raise federal excise taxes on tobacco to finance health care reform. The workers along with friends and supporters, marched from the White House to the Capitol, rallied on Capitol Hill, and visited members of Congress. Employees of R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Company, Philip Morris, Lorillard and others presented government officials with petitions signed by nearly one million people protesting the tobacco tax.

MARCA Executive Director Kay Pierson said, "These are important and necessary steps to level the playing field for disadvantaged businesses wanting to do business with these financial agencies."

Over the years of RTC's existence, and the billions in asset disposal, minority firms averaged only about 4 percent of the business contracts, while about 200 non-minority firms have collected the balance of the lucrative business opportunities.

In another observation from a senior official with Freddie Mac, John Gibbons said that the quality of products and services from women- and minority-owned firms has improved tremendously. He noted that these firms are greatly concerned with customer satisfaction, they come prepared with abundant expertise, and offer competitive pricing.

Although many of the agencies have identified some minority firms with which to do business, representatives urged women and minority firms not currently doing business with the financial regulatory agencies to make themselves known to those agencies along with the product or service they provide.

MARCA demonstrated its appreciation to members of Congress for enacting the new legislation by presenting awards to Sen. Donald Riegle (D-MI), Rep. Kweil Mifflin (D-MD), Rep. Maxine Waters (D-CA), the Reverend Jesse Jackson, Shadow Senator for the District of Columbia, Rep. Floyd Flake (D-NY), Rep. Nadia Velazquez (D-NY) and Rep. Lucille Roybal-Allard (D-CA). RTC Executive Vice President for Minority/Johnnie Booker was the recipient of the MARCA industry award.

Kay Pierson suggested that women or minority businesses prepared to do business with the financial agencies contact MARCA at 202-416-1623 in Washington, D.C.

African-American Chamber of Commerce seeks global opportunities for minority businesses

OAKLAND, CA—Moving to take advantage of the Administration's stated commitment to building a stronger global economy, the U.S. African-American Chamber of Commerce will concentrate heavily on opportunities for black entrepreneurs in international trade and tourism at its Seventh Annual Convention this summer.

According to Dr. Oscar Coffey, President and CEO of the Chamber "this is the beginning of a new decade of service for the Chamber and we are moving into the exploration of how the black entrepreneur can fit into the nation's priority business concerns."

"The organization recently

changed its name from the National Black Chamber of Commerce to the U.S. African-American Chamber of Commerce. The name change is indicative of the Chamber's "new thrust" toward solving the problems of black entrepreneurs."

The inclusive dates for the convention are July 31 through August 7. The Convention is scheduled to be held in two locations, beginning at the Doral Beach Resort Hotel in Miami Beach, Florida, from July 31 through August 3. The additional four days will continue in Nassau, Bahamas.

This year is the first time that the

convention will meet outside of the United States. The theme will be "Solutions: To Provide: Workable Answers to Known African-American Economic Problems."

Coffey stated, "with the federal government committed to international trade—what it calls the 'global economy'—the Chamber will bring government and private industry speakers to put their capital in an instrument that is specifically designed to help their communities prosper and grow."

The BIDCO proposal comes on the heels of a package of bills recently

Haytian works to end discrimination against minority businesses

Calls for creation of new public/private partnership to invest in minority-owned businesses and minority communities

TRENTON—Assembly Speaker Garbaro "Chuck" Haytian, recently addressed the African-American Chamber of Commerce in Newark and proposed the creation of a public/private partnership to provide millions of dollars in capital for investment in minority-owned businesses and minority communities.

"Many of the problems that African-Americans face are generated by the lack of a solid economic base within their communities. This proposal is a way to create that base."

Haytian said he is having legislation drafted that would create Minority Business and Industrial Development Corporations (BIDCOs) to provide additional financial opportunities for minority businesses.

"We need to ensure that minority-owned businesses and businesses in urban areas have the fair chance of succeeding that they have not been given up until now."

The Speaker explained that BIDCOs would be funded by a combination of public and private funds and would essentially function as self-controlled financial lending institutions.

Haytian said they would provide an opportunity for prospective minority business owners to get the financial backing they might not be able to obtain from traditional sources, such as banks. At the same time, BIDCOs would provide those seeking to reinvest in minority communities with a place to deposit funds.

"The goal is to create a new pool of money that would be available to minority businesses," Haytian explained. "The state would match private investments in BIDCO with a loan of up to \$3 million from the Economic Development Authority, and the loan would not have to be repaid for 10 years."

Haytian said the BIDCOs would be operated by those who know the most about these communities—"those who know what works and what does not"—and provide an incentive for minority investors to put their capital in an instrument that is specifically designed to help their communities prosper and grow.

The BIDCO proposal comes on the heels of a package of bills recently

introduced in the Assembly that would guard against inequities in the state's procurement process for goods and services.

The aim of legislative package is to make sure minority-owned businesses are able to compete for state contracts. The linchpin of the package, A-1374, sponsored by Assemblyman Richard Smith, R-Mountaun, and Haytian, would set new uniform bidding requirements for those seeking to do business with the state.

Last year, a commission created by the governor to study the state's procurement process found evidence that government has passed over minority-owned businesses as a result of "passive participation in deeply embedded discriminatory attitudes and behaviors in the marketplace."

Passage of the minority-owned small business equity package, Haytian said, will send a strong message that the "old-boy network" way of doing things is over. Everyone gets a fair shot. Everyone is judged equally."

The package would also require state agencies, departments and boards to keep records that reflect how many firms involved in the procurement process are minority-owned. It would further require the state's financial institutions to keep records of their commercial transactions with businesses owned by minorities.

The Speaker noted that an oversight agency would be created to insure that the intent of these initiatives is met.

The BIDCO proposal and these procurement bills are designed to open doors, bring down barriers, and create an environment that makes it more profitable and desirable for the state to work with minority-owned businesses," Haytian said.

"No resolution, no bill, no legislation is going to be a panacea to end discrimination," the Speaker added. "But every small step we can take to stamp it out grows into something larger. Every time a minority-owned business gets a contract, it means more jobs for those who work in minority areas, more money for those who work for minority companies and more opportunity for everyone."

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Mayoral battle

(Continued from page 1)

ment in the park, and a new mini-bus for senior citizens and youth activities.

In the area of education, I can proudly point to the meeting I set up in 1991, where the Municipal Council and the Board of Education sat down and executed a historical land swap which gave the Board of Education town-owned property next to Orange Park where the new pool is being constructed. With these new schools will come a great opportunity to provide educational services in an atmosphere of lesser students per teacher ratio. These facilities will also offer greater after-school program opportunities.

Lastly, and more importantly, I must stress the responsibilities made to make Irvington safer and cleaner. I have encouraged both storekeepers and home-owners to make a greater emphasis in cleaning their properties. I launched "Operation Clean Sweep" in 1992. Storekeepers and residents also have received copies of all Town Ordinances involving litter regulations. An abandoned property crew of three men, under a Federal Grant, have been used to clean up vacant lots and abandoned buildings until such properties are sold. Soon, there will be a town-wide auction where first-time home buyers and private developers will be allowed to make serious bids on these lots. All purchasers must provide concrete plans for the development of all properties within six months or forfeit said properties back to the Township. My goal is to bring new affordable housing to residents in the East and South Wards.

Ten new police officers were hired in 1991. Currently, the Township is anticipating 18 new police officers in June. A clean and Secure Grant will give us three more Officers by December. This will mean 21 new cops in 1994, a commitment I took to the Town Council and delivered. All new police officers will be assigned to the Task Force operations, Mobile and/or Walking Patrols. They must be on the streets.

Our Police Department, under the leadership of Director Sam Williams, has made great progress... Because of Director Williams' experience as a Detective and street cop, he brought a fresh approach to dealing with police schedules and assignments... Last year, a Mobile Command Post was housed through the request of a middle school bus donated from the Board of Education.

As Mayor of Irvington, over the next four years, the citizens can expect me to work just as hard to make sure our Police and every municipal agency is doing their part to make Irvington safe, clean, and the kind of place one would want to live in, or start a business in. I will not rest until I have made Irvington the "showcase of Essex County," concluded Mayor Steele.

AA Chamber of Commerce

(Continued from page 8)

minority entrepreneurs are currently playing in international trade, as well as what roles we might hope to play. The Chamber's constituents need to establish links with those federal organizations that can aid us in our best self interest."

The Chamber's CEO stated that constituents must be made aware of both the possibilities and the pitfalls of international trade, and "it must be clearly understood that this could be a highly profitable area for some of us and a place of tears and disappointment for others of us."

"A good entrepreneur will study the global arena and will make up his or her own mind in terms of whether or not international trade would work for oneself. Our constituents must understand that doing business in Lagos, Rio de Janeiro, Moscow, Stockholm, Mexico City, Port of Spain, Tokyo or Peking is far more difficult than doing business in New York, Los Angeles, Seattle, Dallas, Atlanta or Memphis."

Coffey stated that one of the reasons for holding the second half of the convention in the Bahamas is to develop mutually beneficial economic relationships with the Caribbean Chambers of Commerce, as well as with travel and tourism industry leaders, including Mexico, Venezuela and Colombia.

For convention information and registration, please call: Dorothy R. Baker, President, Miami Dade Chamber of Commerce/Convention Chairperson or Beverly James at 305-751-8649.

Charlotte to host 1994 NCAA Final Four

CHARLOTTE, N.C.—On April 2nd and 4th, the city of Charlotte will host the NCAA Division I Men's Final Four Basketball Championship. This premier sports event will bring the nation's top four college basketball teams to the Carolinas to play for the national championship.

The national semifinals are scheduled for Saturday, April 2, beginning at 5:42 p.m. ET. The nation-

al championship game is scheduled for Monday, April 4, at 9:22 p.m. ET. All games will be televised nationally by CBS.

With more than 50,000 visitors expected in Charlotte for the week surrounding the three games, the Charlotte organizing Committee and the host institution, the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, have planned a full array of activities for

basketball fans. While only 22,876 fans will actually watch the tournament live in the Charlotte Coliseum, tens of thousands of local residents and visiting fans will find the city alive with basketball fever.

Activities surrounding the Final Four began on Monday, March 28, with the unveiling of the NCAA Final Four Photographic Exhibition at the First Union Atrium in uptown Char-

lotte. The NCAA Final Four Salute, featuring the coaches of the four participating teams, will be held Thursday, March 31, at the North Carolina Blumenthal Performing Arts Center. The NCAA will also sponsor a Youth Education through Sports (YES) Clinic, to be held on Saturday, April 2, at the Belk Gymnasium on the UNC Charlotte campus.

In conjunction with the tournament, the National Association of Basketball Coaches will hold its annual convention and sponsor the NABC All-Star Game at Independence Arena on Sunday, April 3.

One of the highlights of the NABC festivities will be Fan Jam, a five-day celebration of basketball, open to the public at the Charlotte Convention Center. Activities at Fan Jam will include slam dunk and three-point shooting, autograph and photograph booths, souvenir merchandise, and "chalk-talk" sessions with NABC member coaches.

Other activities for the general public include welcoming events for the arriving teams on Wednesday, March 30, and open practice at the Charlotte Coliseum on Friday, April 1.

Sistas in Charge

(Continued from page 3)

sisters, since in most cases they are the ones who raise the children and have the jobs. And black journalists need to consider working at the Black Press, said Marilyn Marshall, managing editor of the Houston Defender, a weekly newspaper.

Without talented reporters with commitment and vision, "our papers can never thrive and grow," she said. Lucile Bluford, editor-publisher of the Kansas City Call newspaper, agrees. She said as of late February she was looking to hire a reporter.

However, Bluford said she sees a resurgence of interest in the black press. She should know; she's worked in the Black Press for almost seven decades, spending most of her career as a reporter, editor and now publisher at the Call. Black newspapers "Will always be there as long as there is racism and discrimination.... We're working ourselves out of our jobs," said Bluford. "We'll be here," she said of the Black Press, "...for a long time." And hopefully, so will our sisters who are running our media.

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RATE	APR	MAXIMUM LOAN	MONTHLY P&I PER \$1,000	CAPS	
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6.000%	6.655%	\$500,000	\$6.00		

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